6. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

Development of Tourism in India

1253. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to permit international chain of hotels to set up hotels in order to give a boost to tourism industry in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Guidelines for Foreign Investment and Collaboration in the Hotel Industry are already there, under which international hotel chains can set up hotels in India in collaboration with Indian parties.

Finding of Audit Report of NCCF on purchase of food items

1254. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Auditors in their report on the accounts of the NCCF for the period ended 30th June 1985 has revealed that heavy purchases of Arhar Dal, Masoor Chanti, Mustard oil, tea etc. were made by Branch Managers of Patna, Kanpur, Calcutta, Cuttack; Bangalore; and Srinagar Branches (i) without firm indents (ii) from non-approved suppliers (iii) without obtaining quotations (iv) without going through the purchase committee (v) without written agreements and above all (vi) without Head Office approval;

(b) whether it is a fact that these commodities were not disposed of at the time when rates were favourable and also that excessive high inventroies were maintained; and

(c) if so the action taken against the Branch Managers involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) The National Cooperative Consumers Federaiton (NCCF) has reported that stocks of grocery items including pulses were purchased during the period by the NCCF according to its Rabi and Kharif procurement plan. In the lean period also stocks were purchased by the NCCF according to the requirements of its branches. Grocery items are subject to price fluctuations due to changes in market conditions. The Rabi procurement starts in April and ends in June/July and as such excessive high inventory as on 30th June could not be avoided due to non-movement of stocks from procuring centres to the consuming centres and also due to unfavourable prices during the procurement season. The practice of inviting quotations through tenders is not being followed because of day to day fluctuations in prices and the resultant time constraint in finalising such purchases.

The question of procedural irregularities, if any in these purchases, is being looked by the Internal Audit.

Import of sub-standard billets by the SAIL

1255. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI RAM CHANDER VIKAL:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 7th April, 1988 to the effect that the Steel Authority of India Limited had imported in 1986 sub-standard billets valued at over Rs. 18

crores from Turkey for rolling at the Bhilai Steel Plant and has been unable to dispose of the same;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, stating the details of officials responsible for this commercial deal and the terms and conditions under which these imports were made;

(c) whether Government have since inquired into the matter; if so, what are the findings in this regard; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against those officials; if so, when and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). 35,000 tonnes of billets imported by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited as Canalising Agency on account of SAIL from Turkey did not conform to the specified chemical composition. MMTC had ordered the imports under their usual terms and conditions. The intended purpose of this import was to use it for making light structurals at the Bhilai Steel Plant. The billets have been used for alternative purposes at Durgapur Steel Plant and also by Indian Railways. Government has not so far enquired into the matter and, therefore, no one has been held responsible. SAIL has lodged a claim against MMTC in respect of this contract and has initiated action for arbitration.

Construction of Roads in Tribal areas of M.P.

1256. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to construct roads in tribal and backward areas on priority basis;

(b) if so, the areas identified in Madhya Pradesh under this scheme; and

(c) the Central assistance provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) There is Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 per cent grant-in-aid to States for development of roads to tribal areas, on selected basis, which were deemed necessary but could not be covered earlier in the state or Central Plan.

(b) The areas in Madhya Pradesh where roads under this scheme have been sanctioned are as under: 1. Achanakam—Keonchi 2. Madwas-Kushmi Road; 3. Madwas-Kushmi-Runda-Bhundura 4. Dudhawa-Ghotia wahi Road and Dabenda Approach Road; 5. Ghutke-Borai-Kankera Road.

(c) Rs. 363.20 lakhs.

Flood in Orissa

1257. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa is among the chronically flood affected States in the country;

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered in the State during the last three years;

(c) the Central assistance granted and disbursed during the above period, yearwise;

(d) whether the amount given is inadequate and Government of Orissa has requested to increase the Central assistance; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHY-